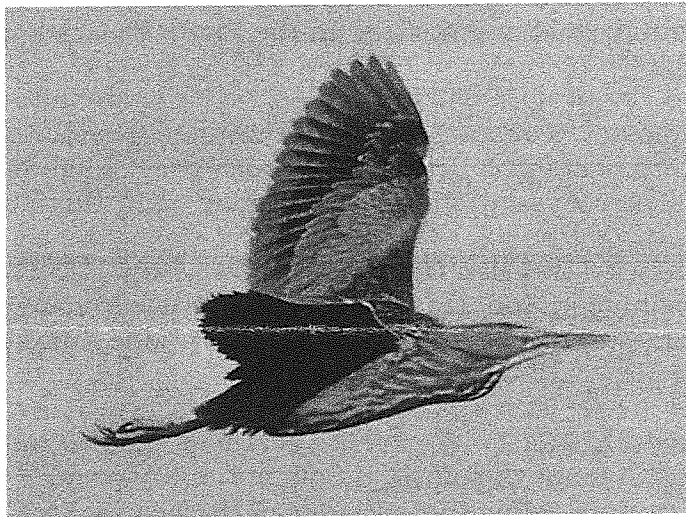




Kite Tales

Volume 47 Number 4

December 2011



Flying Bittern, Central Valley Fieldtrip – Photo by Rick Le Baudour

**RROS General Meeting
December 8, 2011 at 7 p.m.
Member Photo Night**

We will showcase slides and videos from the talented photographers in our club. If you have pictures to share, please bring your own laptop with which you are familiar, DVDs and flash drives of birds and birding to the meeting. A power point projector and screen are available. Remember it may be helpful to bring backup discs in case of technical glitches

Directions to the meeting: From Hwy 101 take Hwy 116 West toward Sebastopol. Turn right (north) on Llano Rd. and go ~ 1 mile to **Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant at 4300 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa**. Look for an open gate on right. Proceed to Administration Bldg. at SE corner of the plant. From Hwy. 12, take Llano Rd. south about 3 miles. Plant is on left.

Dinner Before the meeting: Join some of us at 5:30 p.m. at the Star Restaurant, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati (west of Hwy 101, at exit for Hwy 116 West)

Save the date
January 12, 2012 General Meeting
Veronica Bowers on “Saving Songbirds one Bird at a Time”

FIELD TRIPS Planned for 2011- 2012

December - No Saturday December Field Trip planned – Please help with the Dec. 18th Santa Rosa Christmas Count. Other local counts also need your help.

January 12 – 14 – Panoche Valley and Los Banos area

Martin Luther King weekend, we will have a weekend trip to Panoche Valley and Merced Wildlife areas. The trip leaves just south of Hollister at the Paicines Reservoir at 8 a.m. on Saturday. We will spend the day birding the Panoche Valley which is exceptional in winter for raptors. Many years there are Mountain Plovers, Chukars, rare sparrows and Long-eared Owls. Note that the Panoche Valley is famous for very few restrooms.

We will spend Saturday night in Los Banos. Rooms are reserved at the Americas Best Value Inn. There are 5 double rooms and 4 king bed rooms reserved under RR0S for January 15. The cost is about \$59 for a double and \$52 for a king. All rooms are non-smoking. Smoking rooms are available. Call 209-826-5002 for reservations. They will hold these rooms until January 1st.

Sunday at 8 a.m. we will bird the Wild Life Refuges around Los Banos, for wintering water birds and whatever is around, finishing the day on the Sante Fe Grade heading northwest towards Highway 5 and home.

The drive time to Hollister is about 3 hrs. & 15 minutes from Santa Rosa. The drive time from Gustine to Santa Rosa is about 3 hrs. We will finish the day on Sunday around 3 p.m. There is a Best Western in Hollister if you wish to spend Friday night there before meeting at Paicines.

The trip will be loosely led by Ellen Blustein and Lisa Hug. Because the trip is a loop, all carpooling must originate in Sonoma County. To sign up, e-mail or call Ellen evireo@gmail.com or 707-623-9404. She will need your e-mail and cell phone number. Participants will receive directions and meal plans if they need them.

Saturday, February 11, 2012 – Wintering Birds of Solano and Yolo Counties, 8am – 4pm

The open agricultural lands of southern Solano County provide excellent foraging habitat for scores of wintering raptors, while the wetlands of the nearby Yolo Basin Wildlife Area are the winter home for thousands of waterfowl including ducks, geese, swans and many shorebirds. This all-day field trip will visit several local habitats in search of wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks; Merlin; Prairie Falcon; Burrowing, Barn and Great-horned Owls; Long-billed Curlew as well as the elusive and threatened Mt. Plover. We also expect to see a representative sampling of waterfowl and a variety of shorebirds at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, aka the Vic Fazio refuge. Participants meet the leader at 8:00am in Dixon in the southwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot located on East Dorset Drive at the Hwy 113 exit off I-80. Bring a lunch and liquids; dress in layers. Leader: Terry Colborn. 916.705.8991, or tlcgdc@aol.com . Heavy rain cancels.

Santa Rosa Christmas Bird Count - December 18, 2011 -

Come one, Come all. All local birders, whatever your experience level, are invited to participate in this year's Santa Rosa Christmas Count on Sunday, December 18th. If you have helped with a block in the past, your block leader will most likely have gotten in touch with you in November. If you are new to the Christmas count this year, if you would like to bird a different block, or if you have any other questions, contact Bill Doyle at 483-8773, or bill.doyle@yahoo.com

Observations: Oct. 15, 2011-Nov. 14, 2011

Compiled by David A. Hofmann

| Bird Species | Date | Location | Co. | # | Observer | Notes |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Greatr White-frtd Goose | 10/16/11 | Hwy 116 x Hwy 1 | SON | 2 | LiH | |
| Greatr White-frtd Goose | 10/16/11 | Salmon Crk x Hwy 1 | SON | 1 | LiH | |
| Greatr White-frtd Goose | 10/21-29/11 | Pt. Reyes/Spalleta Pd | MRN | 1 | DavW, JiW, RAR, BoS | |
| Greatr White-frtd Goose | 11/12/11 | Dillons Beach | MRN | 70+ | AW | flying overhead |
| Greatr White-frtd Goose | 11/13-14/11 | Petaluma | SON | 60-100 | KeW | flying overhead |
| Snow Goose | 11/7/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 juv. | EuH | |
| Brant | 10/15-30/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 3 | AW, DAH, BDP, mob | cont'd |
| Cackling Goose | 10/16/11 | Hwy 116 x Hwy 1 | SON | 4 | LiH | ssp. leucopareia |
| Cackling Goose | 10/16/11 | Salmon Crk x Hwy 1 | SON | 2 | LiH | ssp. leucopareia |
| Cackling Goose | 10/16/11 | Bodega Farm Pond | SON | 1 | LiH | ssp.minima |
| Cackling Goose | 10/18/11 | Las Gallinas Ponds | MRN | 6-11 | LeB, StT | |
| Cackling Goose | 11/3/11 | Nicasio Reservoir | MRN | 7 | BoB | |
| Tundra Swan | 11/4-7/11 | Pt. Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 juv. | JeM, DavW, JiW, EuH | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 10/15-11/13/11 | Bolinas Lagoon | MRN | 2-3 m | BoB, JiW, DeF, mob | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 11/2/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Est | MRN | 1 m | StT, DaM | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 11/2/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 m | StT, DaM | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 11/3/11 | Bodega Farm Pond | SON | 1 f | EuH | |
| Tufted Duck | 11/2-7/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 m | CaL, BaG, BoT, StT, DaM | mob |
| Harlequin Duck | 10/16-11/1/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 | JeM, DavW, AmT, mob | |
| White-winged Scoter | 10/15/11 | Bodega Harbor | SON | 1 | AW, mob | cont'd |
| Black Scoter | 10/15-11/2/11 | Pt. Reyes/New Willows | MRN | 1-3 | MaD, BoS, mob | |
| Black Scoter | 11/2-3/11 | Wright's Beach St. Pk | SON | 4 m 1f | ROD, ToM, EuH, mob | |
| Long-tailed Duck | 10/22/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Bch | MRN | 1 | JuE | |
| Long-tailed Duck | 10/22-26/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 | JuE, MaD, mob | |
| Hooded Merganser | 11/7/11 | Westside Reg. Park | SON | 1 f | IaM, JeH, PeL, BiP, GiW | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 11/2/11 | Pt. Reyes/Chimney Rk | MRN | 2 | BoB, StT, DaM | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 10/15/11 | Doran Regional Park | SON | 1 | AW | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 10/27/11 | Bodega Bay Harbor | SON | 3-5 | TeE | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 11/3/11 | Duncans Landing | SON | 1 | EuH | |
| Laysan Albatross | 10/29/11 | Cordell Banks | SON/MRN | 1 | DeS, mob | |
| White-chinned Petrel | 10/16/11 | Cordell Banks | MRN | 1 | StH, GIT, KeP, ToB, JoV | |
| White-faced Ibis | 10/23/11 | Bodega Farm Pond | SON | 1 | EuH | |
| Bald Eagle | 10/20/11 | Tomales Bay | MRN | 1 2 nd yr | WaK | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 10/26/11 | Jenner Headlands Pres. | SON | 6 | KaM, DeH | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 10/27/11 | Bodega Farm Pond | SON | 1 | TeE, DiA | dark phase |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/3/11 | Stage Gulch Road | SON | 1 | RAR | light phase |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/5-7/11 | near Abbott's Lagoon | MRN | 1 | DavW, JiW, EuH | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 11/14/11 | Petaluma/Adobe Crk | SON | 1 | EuH | |
| Golden Eagle | 11/10/11 | Stage Gulch Road | SON | 1 | KaM | |
| Merlin | 11/2/11 | Duncan's Landing | SON | 1 | ROD, ToM, mob | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 10/27-11/7/11 | Doran Regional Park | SON | 1 | KaM, DeH, DAH, BDP, mob | |
| Am.Golden Plover | 10/16-19/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | DoS, mob | cont'd |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 10/19-24/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 5 | StT, mob | cont'd |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 10/18-11/4/11 | Rush Creek Marsh | MRN | 4 | RS, BoB | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 10/30/11 | Porto Bodega Pier | SON | 21 | DAH, BDP, DoR | high number |
| Long-billed Curlew | 10/15-30/11 | Doran Regional Park | SON | 2 | AW, DAH, BDP, mob | |
| Red Knot | 10/26/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Bay | MRN | 1 | RS | |
| Baird's Sandpiper | 10/15/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | CoG, mob | cont'd |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 10/15-24/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | CoG, mob | cont'd |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 10/24/11 | Sonoma Mtn Rd pond | SON | 2 | EuH | |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 10/15-19/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | CoG, mob | cont'd |
| Ruff (Reeve) | 10/26/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Bay | MRN | 1 f | RS | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------|-----|-------------------------|-------------|
| Wilson's Snipe | 10/19/11 | Spring Lake Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | MoS | |
| South Polar Skua | 10/29/11 | Cordell Banks | SON/MRN | 14 | DeS, mob | |
| Parasitic Jaeger | 10/15/11 | off Bodega Head | SON | 1 | AW | |
| Elegant Tern | 10/15/11 | Porto Bodega | SON | 2 | AW, mob | |
| Elegant Tern | 10/16/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Bch | MRN | 240 | RS | high number |
| Laughing Gull | 10/18/11 | Las Gallinas Ponds | MRN | 1 | LeB, mob | cont'd |
| Thayer's Gull | 11/2/11 | Duncan's Landing | SON | 1 | ROD, ToM, mob | |
| Thayer's Gull | 11/3/11 | Salmon Creek Beach | SON | 1 | EuH | |
| Black-legged Kitiwake | 11/5/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 | DavW, JiW | |
| Rhinoceros Auklet | 10/27-30/11 | off Bodega Head | SON | 1 | TeE, DiA, BDP | |
| Rhinoceros Auklet | 11/5/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 7 | DavW, JiW | |
| Tufted Puffin | 10/29/11 | Cordell Banks | SON/MRN | 1 | DeS, mob | |
| Barn Owl | 10/19/11 | Larkfield | SON | 1 | DoS | |
| Short-eared Owl | 10/12/11 | Fairfield Osborn Pres. | SON | 1 | AIJ | |
| Blk-chnd Hummngbrd | 10/27/11 | Bolinas/Hanson studio | MRN | 1 f | KeH | |
| Rufous Hummingbird | 10/27/11 | Bolinas/Hanson studio | MRN | 1 | KeH | |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | 11/14/11 | Kenwood/Jessie St. | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Western Wood-Pewee | 10/16/11 | Wright's Beach | SON | 1 | LiH | late |
| Eastern Phoebe | 11/1/11 | Pt. Reyes/Mendoza | MRN | 1 | BoB | |
| Tropical Kingbird | 10/16/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 | JeM, DavW, AmT, RS, mob | |
| Tropical Kingbird | 10/29/11 | Duncan's Landing | SON | 1 | RiL | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 10/27/11 | Pt. Reyes/ "B" Ranch | MRN | 1 | TiS | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 11/6/11 | Stony Pt Rd x Pepper Rd | SON | 1 | LiH | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 10/15-22/11 | Pt.Reyes/New Willows | MRN | 1 | MaB, MAR, RS, MaD, mob | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 10/21-30/11 | Owl Canyon | SON | 1-2 | DF, KaM, DeH, DAH, BDP | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 10/30/11 | Bodega Bay | SON | 1 | SuC | |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 11/8/11 | Mt. St. Helena summit | SON | 2 | EuH | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 10/16-17/11 | Pt. Reyes/Lighthouse | MRN | 1 | RS, JeM, DavW, EuH, mob | |
| Sage Thrasher | 11/8/11 | Pt. Reyes/Lighthouse | MRN | 1 | Chris ? | |
| Red-throated Pipit | 10/26-29/11 | Pt. Reyes/Spalleta Plat. | MRN | 2 | RS, RAR | |
| Orange-crownd Warbler | 11/11/11 | Shollenberger Park | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Nashville Warbler | 10/26/11 | Owl Canyon | SON | 1 | ScC | |
| Virginia's Warbler | 10/18/11 | Pt.Reyes/New Willows | MRN | 1 | SaS | |
| Chestnut-sided Wrblr | 10/16/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 | RS, JeM, DavW, AmT, mob | |
| Townsend's Warbler | 11/12/11 | Spring Lake Reg. Park | SON | 1 | CoT | |
| Townsend's Warbler | 11/14/11 | Kenwood/Jessie St. | SON | 1 | RAR | |
| Prairie Warbler | 10/23-11/11/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 m | MaB, MAR, RS, EuH, mob | |
| Palm Warbler | 10/26/11 | Pt. Reyes/Mendoza | MRN | 1 | RS | |
| Palm Warbler | 10/15/11 | Pt. Reyes/Lighthouse | MRN | 3 | MaD, mob | |
| Palm Warbler | 10/17/11 | Owl Canyon | SON | 1 | ScC, RAR | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 10/16/11 | Pt. Reyes/Fish Docks | MRN | 1 | JeM, DavW, AmT, mob | |
| Blck-&-white Warbler | 10/17/11 | Owl Canyon | SON | 1 f | ScC, RAR | |
| Northern Waterthrsh | 10/15-17/11 | Old Bay Flat Road | SON | 1 | AW, RAR | |
| Am.Tree Sparrow | 11/2/11 | Pt. Reyes/Drake's Bch | MRN | 1 | StT, DaM | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 10/26/11 | Pt.Reyes/Nunes Ranch | MRN | 1 | RS | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 10/28/11 | Bolinas/Palomin | MRN | 1 | ScJ, ReC, mob | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 11/8/11 | Reclamation Road | SON | 1 | LiH | |
| Nelson's Sparrow | 10/26/11 | Pine Gulch Creek | MRN | 1 | ReC, mob | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 10/21/11 | Pt.Reyes/New Willows | MRN | 1 | DavW, JiW | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 10/24/11 | Ragle Ranch Reg. Pk | SON | 1 | LiH | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 10/26/11 | Pine Gulch Creek | MRN | 1 | ReC, mob | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 10/27/11 | SFD x Schooner Crk | MRN | 1 | TiS | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 10/16/11 | Wright's Beach | SON | 1 | LiH | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 10/16/11 | Napa yard | NAP | 1 | MiS | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 10/26/11 | Pt. Reyes/Nunes Ranch | MRN | 2 | RS | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 11/1/11 | Kenwood yard | SON | 1 | RAR | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----|---|------------------------------|
| White-throated Sparrow | 11/4/11 | Bolinas | MRN | 1 | WaK |
| White-throated Sparrow | 11/5/11 | Ellis Creek Ponds | SON | 2 | CoT, mob |
| Lapland Longspur | 10/30-11/7/11 | near Abbott's Lagoon | MRN | 1 | RS, HeC, StT, DaM, DavW, JiW |
| Chstnt-cllrd Longspur | 10/30-11/9/11 | near Abbott's Lagoon | MRN | 1 | RS, HeC, RyD |
| Snow Bunting | 11/6/11 | Pt.Reyes/Abbott's Lgn | MRN | 1 | PeM, StD |
| Evening Grosbeak | 10/15/11 | Santa Rosa/Laguna Rd | SON | 2 | GoB |
| Evening Grosbeak | 10/17/11 | Frei Road | SON | 1 | DoS |

Observers: Dick Ashford, Bob Battagin, Gordon Beebe, Tom Blackman, Mark Butler, Heather Cameron, Scott Carey, Suzanne Cogen, Renee Cormier, Stewart Davidson, Ryan DiGaudio, Matthew Dodder, Ted Eliot, Jules Evans, Debra Fitzpatrick, Barbara Gaman, Cory Gregory, Deyea Harper, David A. Hofmann, Jeff Holtzman, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Al Janulaw, Scott Jennings, Walter Kitundu, Rick Lebaudour, Peter Leveque, Carolyn Longstreth, Dan Maxwell, Tom McCuller, Pete Myers, Jeff Miller, Michael Park, Ian Morrison, Kathleen Mugele, Rob O'Donnell, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Bill Payne, Ken Petersen, Ken Poerner, Don Reinberg, Mary Anne Rotella, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Sal Salerno, Monica Schwalbenberg-pena, Doug Shaw, Tim Shelmerdine, Bob Speckels, Rich Stallcup, Mike Stanley, Colin Talcroft, Bonnie Tank, Glen Tepke, Amy Trainer, Steve Tucker, Jon Vanderpoel, Jim White, Alan Wight, David Wimpfheimer, Giel Witt

Note: The compiler apologizes and takes full responsibility for omissions or errors regarding this list.

Field Trip Report for November 12th, Central Valley

The November 12th Central Valley Field Trip to sites including Staten Island (San Joaquin County), Consumnes River Preserve and Desmond Road (Sacramento County) and Flannery and Robinson Roads (Solano County) was co-led by Becky Olsen and Ken Wilson and attended by 15 other birders and members of RROS. Starting in Staten Island we were immediately impressed by the many thousands of Cackling Geese mostly, if not all, of the sub-species Aleutian, *Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*. Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese were not present in great numbers, though occasional small flocks flew amongst the armada of Cackling Geese that filled the skies throughout the morning. Before leaving the "Island" we enjoyed great looks at many other species including large numbers of Tundra Swans and two different races of Sandhill Cranes.

Following lunch at the Consumnes Preserve and a short walk along the forested trails, we drove the Desmond Road loop and saw an adult Bald Eagle fly over and watched Northern Harriers hunting the fields. Returning to the Preserve, we walked the boardwalks among Cinnamon teals, Northern Shoveler's, an elusive Virginia Rail and Wilson's Snipe. Alerted to the presence of an American Bittern by other birders, we were treated to a visually satisfying fly-by (see photo on page one), a fitting end to our short visit here before we drove to Solano County in search of the elusive Mountain Plovers.

While looking for Mountain Plovers we found a Burrowing Owl observing us from the rock pile by the bridge on Flannery Road and a short time later had very good looks at a hunting Ferruginous Hawk. Later on Robinson Road, while still looking for plovers we had distant scope views of a Merlin and a Prairie Falcon. Finally we found our flock of plovers accompanied by Long-billed Curlews. Though distant this was still satisfying, high fives all round until one sharp-eyed observer noted that when the flock took to the air they sported black axillaries - Black-bellied Plovers!

Our total species count for the day was 89.

Members of our group included; Roger Marlow, Joel Hornstein, Peter Colasanti, Lisa Hug, Elaine Pruett, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Bill Doyle, Terry and Gary Haag, Nancy and Gene Hunn, Richard Merris, Rick LeBaudor, Will German, Becky Olsen and Ken Wilson.

